

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### Listing of Claims:

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of isolating RNA from a biological specimen comprising:
  - (a) contacting the biological specimen with an admixture of (i) an effective amount of a mono-phasic solution of phenol and guanidine isothiocyanate, and (ii) an effective amount of a lysis buffer under conditions and for a time appropriate to form a homogenate;
  - (b) admixing the homogenate with a water- immiscible organic solvent under conditions and for a time appropriate to form an aqueous phase and an organic phase;
  - (c) contacting the aqueous phase with a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> lower alcohol under conditions and for a time to form a precipitated RNA; and
  - (d) recovering the precipitated RNA wherein the lysis buffer comprises a chelating agent and a dispersing agent, and the biological specimen is a bacterium.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said biological specimen is first contacted with a lysis buffer followed by a mono-phasic solution of phenol and guanidine isothiocyanate.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the RNA isolated is total RNA.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein said biological specimen is a Gram-positive bacterium.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the biological specimen is a clinical isolate of a microorganism.

6. (Cancelled)
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein the biological specimen is obtained from a human, animal, plant or microbe.
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the chelating agent is EDTA, EGTA, or a combination of both.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the dispersing agent is a detergent.
11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the dispersing agent is a surfactant.
12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the surfactant is N-lauroylsarcosine, sodium lauryl sulfate or a mixture thereof.
13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the water-immiscible organic solvent is chloroform, carbon tetrachloride, or a mixture thereof.
14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> lower alcohol is ethanol, methanol or isopropyl alcohol.
- 15-23. (Cancelled)